To: McKean, Deborah[mckean.deborah@epa.gov]
Cc: Card, Joan[Card.Joan@epa.gov]; Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]; McGrath, Shaun[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov]; Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; Smith, Paula[Smith.Paula@epa.gov]; Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]; Myers, Craig[Myers.Craig@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]; Hestmark, Martin[Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]; Jenkins, Laura Flynn[Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov]; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa[Mcclain-Vanderpool.Lisa@epa.gov]; Purchia, Liz[Purchia.Liz@epa.gov]; Lee, Monica[Lee.Monica@epa.gov]; StClair, Christie[StClair.Christie@epa.gov]; Faulk, Libby[Faulk.Libby@epa.gov]; Peterson, Cynthia[Peterson.Cynthia@epa.gov]; Russo, Rebecca[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov]
From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Tue 8/11/2015 1:47:20 PM
Subject: Re: CNN article

Who is taking the lead on getting info to CNN and asking for a correction?

Melissa Harrison
Press Secretary
EPA
Office: (202) 564-8421
Mobile: (202) 697-0208
Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

On Aug 11, 2015, at 7:40 AM, McKean, Deborah <mckean.deborah@epa.gov> wrote:

> I agree with Joan's comment. It appears that the CNN reporter used MCLs, drinking water quality criteria, to evaluate Animas River water metal concentrations. EPA has said, repeatedly, that raw water (untreated) from the Animas is not a source of drinking water (water for long-term human consumption).
>
> You need to all recognize that the current methodologies that the EU (Environmental Unit for Region 8 IC) has been using the following criteria for the evaluation of Animas River water:
>
> 1) Pre-incident water quality data
>
> a. Region 8 has been involved in study of the Animas River in and around Silverton, CO. Consequently, we have a great deal of analytical data from this region of the river for about 5 years pre-incident.
>
> b. This region has been mined historically. Therefore, the river is highly mineralized. The historical levels of metals in some sampling locations may show baseline (historical) concentrations higher than other rivers in CO or in down-river locations.

c. Because of the high concentration of minerals (metals), most particularly iron, will cause a yellow/orange coloration for a number of reasons (regular rain events, top soil spilled in the river, etc.). It is, therefore, not inconceivable that over the next days, weeks, and months we may get comments from the public that see occasional discoloration of the river and assume another mine incident.

2) Risk-based screening criteria for recreational use. These criteria are based on the following exposures: dermal, incidental ingestion and inhalation (however, none of the metals analyzed are volatile compounds).

From: Card, Joan
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 9:00 PM
To: Mylott, Richard
Cc: McGrath, Shaun; Gray, David; Smith, Paula; Zito, Kelly; Myers, Craig; McKean, Deborah; Ostrander, David; Hestmark, Martin; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Purchia, Liz; Harrison, Melissa; Lee, Monica; StClair, Christie; Faulk, Libby; Peterson, Cynthia; Russo, Rebecca
Subject: Re: CNN article

Deb should weigh in, but the exposure assumptions are off. We should give them the paragraphs on risk we just have CBS.

Joan Card

Senior Policy Advisor

Region 8

Sent from my EPA iPhone

On Aug 10, 2015, at 8:51 PM, Mylott, Richard <Mylott.Richard@epa.gov> wrote:

> Fyi, I believe this reporter compares sampling data to Safe Drinking Water Act MCLs in this article.
>
> http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/10/us/colorado-epa-mine-river-spill/